

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN READING THE BIBLE:

No verse stands alone.

Context matters (who, when & why?).

THE REST OF THE BIBLE MATTERS.

Matthew 12:1-7 & Hosea 6:6/ Matthew 23:23-24

SIMPLE (EASY TO UNDERSTAND) THINGS EVERY CHRIST FOLLOWER NEEDS TO KNOW & LIVE BY:

Luke 6:27-49

1 Treat your enemies the way you want your enemies to treat YOU. Luke 6:27-36, Matthew 7:12, Matthew 18:21-35, 1 Peter 2:19-23, Romans 12:17-21

2 Judge others the way you want God to judge you.

Luke 6:37-38/ Matthew 7:1-2 & 15-20/ 1Corinthians 5:9-13/ James 2:13

3 Fix yourself before you try to fix others.

Luke 6:39-42/ 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

4 We are what we say and do – even when it's hard to admit.

Luke 6:43-45/ Proverbs 20:11/ Matthew 7:16-20

5 Knowledge without obedience is absolutely worthless.

Luke 6:46-49/ James 1:22-26/ James 2:14-26/ 1 John 2:3-5

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you were forced to live in one of the remote areas below for three months with only what is necessary to survive and no communication with the outside world, which location would you choose and why?

Sahara Desert / South American Rain Forest
Antarctica / Himalayan Mountains
Sailboat in the middle of the ocean / Outer Space

2. As you look toward 2011, what are one or two things you're looking forward to?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard how important it is to keep Scripture in context with the verses that surround the passage along with what is stated in the rest of the Bible. Write down what each of the verses below say about prayer. Note how reading the next Scripture adds to a fuller understanding of what the Bible says about prayer.

Matthew 6:7

Matthew 6:5-6

1 Thessalonians 3:10; 5:17

How could reading only one of these verses cause you to misinterpret what Scripture means about prayer?

2. Time and again we see how Jesus made the complex simple. How do we see Jesus doing this again in Matthew 22:34-40?

3. Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or principle most challenged, confused you or caught your attention?

4. Read Luke 6:27-36 . Loving one's enemies (those who offend us) is an aspect of a radical Christ centered lifestyle. In what ways does your enemy make it hard for you to love him/her?

5. Jesus knows that loving one's enemies is impossible without strong motivation. How does he argue that his disciples can have that motivation (vv. 31-36)?

6. Read Luke 6:37-49 . In verses 37 for he knows it is impossible not to judge others. Rather we are to judge with good sense. What guidelines does he give to judge in this way (vv. 37b-42)?

7. Jesus concludes by warning his listeners of the long-term results of their present choice of lifestyle (vv. 43-49). How do his logic and illustrations sharpen his argument?

8. What in this study gives you hope that you can maintain the kind of radical lifestyle Jesus expects of his followers?

TAKING IT HOME

Putting these "simple things to live by" into action can be very challenging. Here are some steps you can take this week.

Pray for people who have hurt/offended you.

Look for ways to show mercy and compassion to those who are doing wrong (By God's word, not ours)

Get a spiritual eye checkup. Ask God to help you be better in 2011.

Do what you know is right- just do the next right thing. This will lead you on the right path to bear good fruit.

PRAYER REQUESTS